CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

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RAY LEWIS
Editor and Publisher

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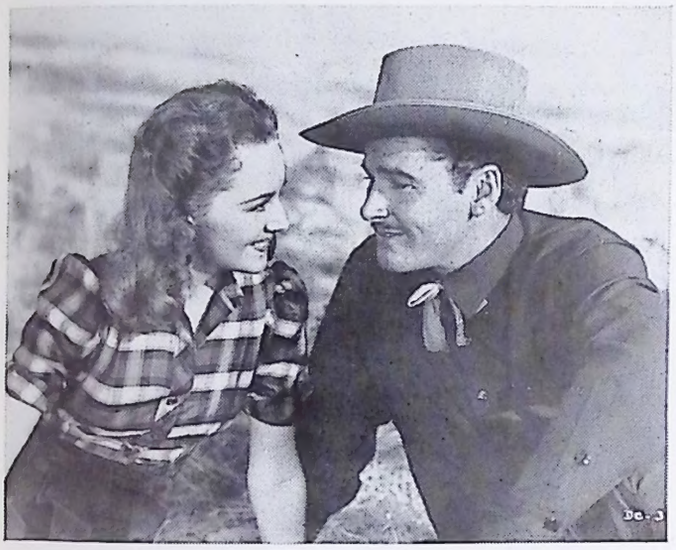

Errol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland are all wrapped up in each other, and probably wouldn't hear a thing if Hitler dropped a bomb beside them. You'll be pretty wrapped up yourself when you see these two in Warner Bros.' "Dodge City".

Things are definitely looking up for Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers as they gaze skyward in this scene from their latest RKO Radio dancing success, "The Story of Vernon and Irene Castle".

They're supposed to be the baby's toys, but it looks as if Mama Carole Lombard and Papa James Stewart are getting the most fun out of them. The picture — David O. Selznick's U.A. release, "Made For Each Other".

It's the old triangle again, but it looks like a pleasant one as Don Ameche and Henry Fonda gaze fondly at Loretta Young in 20th Century-Fox's "The Story of Alexander Graham Bell". This time it's the right number!

PUBLISHED BY

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED

259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

Washington Film Digest

By ROBERT LANSING

Washington, D.C., April 3—(CPS) FEATURED by hilarious wise-cracks about Mae West, the appearance of matinee idol Bob Montgomery and serious spokesmen of the Hays office and Motion Picture Research Council, hearings in the Neely Bill to forbid block-booking and blind-selling finally got under way today before the Senate Interstate Commerce sub-committee.

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The acting profession, consisting of approximately 8,500 persons in Hollywood would suffer as a consequence he said. "I should like to point out that the methods of production and distribution, which are attacked by this Bill, while admittedly not perfect, are the result of thirty years' experience and effort. The sponsors of this Bill ask the Congress to destroy the entire business structure of one of the largest industries of the United States without offering any alternative plan except one which has failed every time it has been tried," the handsome leading man declared.

Enactment of the Neely Bill "would bring about a chaotic condition in the motion picture business from which, in their opinion, there could be no recovery within a period of twelve months or twelve years," he added.

(Continued Next Week)

LOEW U.A. PRODUCER

Hollywood, Calif.—Murray Silverstone, operating head of United Artists, signed a long term contract last week with David L. Loew, for the release through United Artists of that producer's pictures.

Starting off and maintaining a standard of million dollar productions, with outstanding name directors as well as stars, Loew will deliver two for the 1939-40 schedule of United Artists. Space for his productions is being negotiated for at the Selznick International Studio in Culver City.

For many years, Loew was a Vice-President and a member of the Board of Directors of Loew's Inc. He is the son of the late Marcus Loew.

20TH CENTURY-FOX TRADE POLICY

Herman Wobber, 20th Century-Fox Sales Chief, in addressing the company's convention, stated: "Whatever the trade practices will be, 20th Century-Fox will follow the rules. There will be no chiselling, we have always been fair in our dealings with exhibitors, we will continue to follow that policy faithfully."

THIEVES FORCE DOOR

Hamilton, Ont.—Thieves broke into the Westdale Theatre recently by prying open the rear door, and going to considerable trouble to remove a heavy iron bar that protected it. Their efforts were in vain, for when Constables Cummings and Buttenham searched the theatre after discovering the break-in, they found that nothing had been taken.

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Canadian Theatre Chair Co.
277 Victoria St. - Toronto, Can.
CHARLES A. BOCHNER, Mgr.

MRS. JOHN GRIFFIN PASSES AWAY

MRS. JOHN GRIFFIN, aged 76, widow of John Griffin, pioneer showman of Canada, passed away at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. O. McMaster on Friday afternoon, March 31st. Funeral services were held at St. Clair Church, Monday, April 3rd. Interment at Mount Hope Cemetery, Toronto.

Mrs. Griffin had been ill for some time and had been confined to her bed for the past three months.

She was part owner of Griffin Theatres Limited, which company owns three theatres, one at Woodstock, St. Catharines and Chatham in Ontario. These three theatres are operated under a lease by the Famous Players Canadian Corporation.

At one time the late John Griffin had a circuit of theatres numbering close to thirty in Canada. The death of Mrs. Griffin has been the third death in the immediate family of Mrs. O. McMaster within the last two years; a little over a year ago, Mrs. McMaster lost her only child, John McMaster, age 22. Previously she lost her only brother, Peter Griffin.

The late Mrs. Griffin is survived by her daughter, Mrs. O. McMaster, and three grandchildren, who are the children of the late Peter Griffin.

M-G-M'S $10,000 EXHIBITOR PRIZES

HOWARD DIETZ, Advertising and Publicity head of M-G-M, has made a statement that there will be $10,000 in cash prizes to be awarded to independent exhibitors in Canada and the United States for the best campaign which these exhibitors may conduct between September 1st, 1939 and January 1, 1940, governing exploitation of M-G-M product. The first prize will be $2,500, the second, $750, and the third, $500. The rest of the prize money will be distributed in various prizes.

Meanwhile M-G-M has announced its own trade practice policy, covering percentage films carrying a guarantee, arbitration and base percentages in accordance with box-office value. This policy was introduced at the 15th Annual Sales Convention, recently held at Chicago, at which three United States exhibitor leaders were present on M-G-M's invitation, and were permitted to present their ideas on trade practices, Colonel H. A. Cole, Allied representative, Ed. Kuykendall, M.P.-T.O.A. and Harry Brandt, representing nine independent groups. The trade policy will apply to Canada as well as the United States.

Metro Theatre, Bloor and Manning Streets, Toronto, Opens Good Friday

The "Hicks"

The Digest Editor Scans Broadway's Movie Thrills

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Name..... Town.....

Prov..... Country.....

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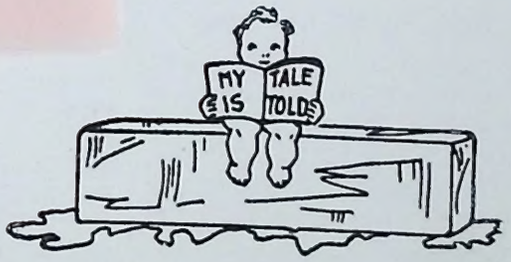
FURTHER on, I noticed that "Made For Each Other", starring Carole Lombard and James Stewart was playing Loew's State, and a flock of Loew's theatres, same time, same dates.

"Made For Each Other" is a David Selznick-United Artists feature now being released in Canada.



Trade Press England, Complains British Production Drifting to Hollywood.

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The acting profession, consisting of approximately 8,500 persons in Hollywood would suffer as a consequence he said. "I should like to point out that the methods of production and distribution, which are attacked by this Bill, while admittedly not perfect, are the result of thirty years' experience and effort. The sponsors of this Bill ask the Congress to destroy the entire business structure of one of the largest industries of the United States without offering any alternative plan except one which has failed every time it has been tried," the handsome leading man declared.

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The "Hicks" Size Up The Great White Way

The Digest Editor Scans Broadway's Movie Thrills

Ray Presents

I WAS walking along Broadway with the rest of the hicks. How do I know the rest were "hicks"? Because Broadway being the most publicized street in New York, heralded all over the world as The Great White Way, interests tourists to flock to it.

Thousands of people were sauntering along, star-gazing. With me they saw a picture advertised, "They Made Her A Spy".

There was a picture of a woman in a nurse's uniform; she was blindfolded and over the spot underneath her heart, there was pinned a red shaped heart, just like a Valentine, and you knew that the volley of bullets would be directed there.

We hicks, who were ambling along, stopped to look at all the pictures of "They Made Her A Spy". Now, again, how do I know that the loiterers were "hicks"? Because New Yorkers do not saunter, nor amble, nor loiter on Broadway, they rush through whatever space is left for them.

FARTHER on, I saw another movie thriller, "You Can't Get Away With Murder". I was taking a good look at the exploitation, when suddenly there was a clattering noise; a horse and wagon came galloping along the road, and a few moments later a mounted policeman came galloping up that street like a real movie.

We all rushed on to the road, but backed up quickly to the curb, for the siren blew its warning, and two cars filled with policemen followed the mounted officer.

"The galloping policeman," we exclaimed, "is after his man."

Anything may happen along this glorified midway of the world's most interesting city, that is most interesting next to London, and let's not overlook Paris! But neither of these latter wonder cities has a Broadway; and neither London nor Paris would be as free as Broadway from a hail of bombs.

FURTHER on, I noticed that "Made For Each Other", starring Carole Lombard and James Stewart was playing Loew's State, and a flock of Loew's theatres, same time, same dates.

"Made For Each Other" is a David Selznick-United Artists feature now being released in Canada.

It is one of those good pictures which has a 100 per cent human interest angle; and Canadian exhibitors would be wise to let their patrons know that here is a picture that they are going to enjoy! You, as an exhibitor, tell it to your patrons, so that they do not have to wait until their friends tell them how good it is.

Still wandering along the streets of the big city, up dale and down dale (poetically speaking) I saw "Idiot's Delight", with Norma Shearer and Clark Gable, M-G-M's big stars, big story production double-billed with Columbia's "Blondie".

Something must be wrong with show business, when a picture with the story value of "Idiot's Delight", and two such stars as Clark Gable and Norma Shearer is presented on a double-bill.

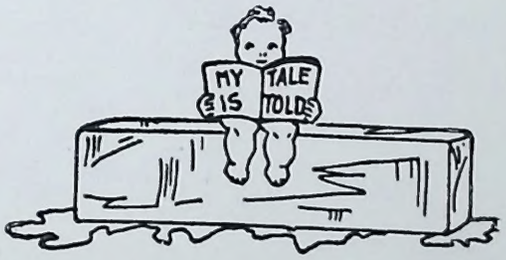
"BLONDIE" is another one of Columbia's pleasant surprises. That company is full of them. It was a breezy contrast to "Idiot's Delight", but the big picture was enough for the price of admission, I thought.

And now, more wandering around the big city.

Radio City Music Hall, Irene Dunne and Charles Boyer in "Love Affair", pleasing, musical, delightful! I could have heard Irene Dunne do a little more singing with pleasure.

The Music Hall certainly spans the gap between a picture show and a stage show. When one wants a little more than a picture for their evening's entertainment, but not a whole evening of a stage show, Radio City Music Hall has just the kind of entertainment to satisfy.

It takes first class management always to give the people a good show. Radio City Music Hall has that degree of showmanship, it never lets you down. I heard a New Yorker say, "When in doubt, we always go to Radio City Music Hall".



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JAMES LEWIS SMITH - Associate Editor

Lubitsch-Lesser Form New Production Company

Hollywood, Calif.—Sol Lesser, one of the outstanding pioneers of the Motion Picture Industry, and Ernst Lubitsch, one of the screen's greatest director-producers announce the formation of a new three million dollar production company and the signing of a five-year contract with United Artists Corporation for the release of its pictures.

Under the terms of the United Artists deal, the combined Sol Lesser Productions and Ernst Lubitsch Corporation, of both of which Lesser is president, will make three major pictures a year, each with a budget of approximately one million dollars, and each to employ the talents of stars, directors and writers of the first magnitude. Two of the three films each year will be directed and produced by Lubitsch; the third, under present plans, will be the picturization of an outstanding Broadway stage success.

The new association will not become effective for Lubitsch until January 1, 1940, as he is now under contract to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer to make the forthcoming Greta Garbo picture "Ninotchka," and the Margaret Sullavan-James Stewart starring picture, "Shop Around the Corner," with which he will not be through until the end of the year. Mr. Lesser's contract with United Artists will become effective September 1, 1939. In the meantime he will complete the three pictures for which he is committed to RKO Radio.

Scenic Artist Leaves

George Astle, for ten years scenic artist for the Capitol and Grand theatres, has left Regina for greener fields in Vancouver. Ross Butler, Winnipeg, has been called in to replace him and also to take over the scenic work for the Metropolitan.

"JAY L"

Yours Truly

DEAR Ray Lewis:

Jules Allen of Premier Operating Corp. is back in town wearing the grandest coat of tan, after a few weeks' vacation at Miami Beach, Fla. Says he had a grand time, and since he came back to Toronto still with considerable money in his pocket—a feat I've never been able to accomplish—I presume the sessions at the bridge table must have been as profitable for him as Simon Meretsky predicted.

Mrs. Frank Audas, that smart showwoman of Amherst, N.S., aroused great interest with the Baby Contest which she held at the Capitol Theatre. Mayor M. J. Kaufman presented the prizes to the lucky winners, and I understand the judges had a pretty hard time picking three or four winners out of a bumper crop of fifty-two bouncing babies.

Your good friend Haskell Masters of United Artists joined the long list of victims of Dat Ole Debbil Flu this week, and was away from the office with the usual sore-throat, etc., etc. If this weather keeps up much longer not only will show business be dead, but it will kill off all those connected with the business.

Since Bruce McLeod is so busy arranging the opening of his new theatre in Glencoe, he has had to relinquish the reins at the Elmwood, London, and the management there has been taken over by Jack Osborne, popular young Adonis of South London.

That's quite a laugh in Metro's "Four Girls in White", when one of the nurses complains to Buddy Ebsen that there is a fly in the ice cream which he has just delivered. "So he likes winter sports", is Buddy's nonchalant reply. The audience laughed heartily.

Did you know that Hanson Theatres Ltd., have closed up the Capitol Theatre, Belleville, which they operated on a lease from Mrs. Robert Weller, widow of the builder of the theatre. W. C. Tyers, who had been managing the Capitol said that he had received orders to close the house, with no explanations given.

QUIZ WESTERN FIZZLE

Regina, Sask. — Results of Movie Quiz revealed only two Reginans were winners — each ten dollars. While the Quiz was regarded as generally unsatisfactory the most reasonable complaint was from I. Reinhorn, manager of independent Roxy, who pointed out his house, using only subsequent-run product, never had a chance to capitalize on the publicity.

Amusement Tax Not Supported

Windsor, Ont.—The Windsor City Council, under the leadership of Mayor David Croll, is not having much luck in its effort to line up other Ontario towns and cities for support in reviving the Amusement Tax on theatre admissions. In addition to Toronto turning down the proposal, replies were received from the city councils of Sarnia and Brantford, expressing disapproval of the idea.

Council Changes License Fee

Verdun, Que. — The Verdun City Council last week approved a by-law which changes the license fee for theatres in this municipality. In the past there was a flat annual license fee of $400. This figure has now been changed to 85 cents per seat.

Regina exhibitors report that the ancient "stocking run racket" is flourishing in great style in their city, and that they are practically helpless to stop it. Apparently it is quite common for theatres to hand out as much as $10 a week, for runs in "brand new stockings for which I paid $2", according to the owner, but that are actually 39-cent hose, according to the exhibitors. What puzzles me is how these theatre managers, especially the bachelors, are so skilled at detecting the quality of ladies' silk stockings just by glancing at them.

Don Stapleton and Johnny Housler of the Centre, Ottawa, could be seen any time of the day last week walking in and out of their new "Magic Doors", trying them out. The doors are operated by photo-electric cells, and open automatically as you approach them. Understand Don is so thrilled with them that he wants to instal them in his garage, and in every room in his house. Some fun!

Yours truly,

"Jay L."

"Dodge City" Super-Western - - "Fast and Loose" Swell Comedy-Mystery - - "Wife" Riotous Comedy

"DODGE CITY"

WARNER BROTHERS

LAST year it was "Robin Hood" that was sweeping across the box-offices of the world in a lusty Technicolor fashion, breaking records, and making exhibitors feel that maybe life was worth living after all. Now it's "Dodge City", also in color, and packing at least as much if not more action into every reel as did "Robin Hood". I can cheerfully predict that "Dodge City" will outgross "Robin Hood" in America, although the foreign gross on the latter picture may be higher, due to the appeal the story had in England.

This story is not new, it's been done dozens of time before in connection with other pioneer settlements, but it has never been done any better than this, and never in such thrilling color and beauty. Story presents Errol Flynn as a fearless son of the plains, afraid of no man, and equal to all when it comes to fast-thinking and fast-drawing. After helping, with his buddies Alan Hale, and Guinn "Big Boy" Williams, to build the railroad to "Dodge City", Flynn goes in for cattle-selling, only to desert that to take on the job of sheriff of "Dodge City", when the forces of law and order are being completely routed by the forces of Bruce Cabot, who with his lieutenant, Victory Jory, controls the lawless element of "Dodge City". After many exciting sequences, including a free-for-all fight that beats anything of its type we had seen before, several murders, and a breath-taking ride on a burning train, the lawless element is vanquished, Cabot and Jory are killed, and Errol Flynn marries Olivia de Havilland.

Errol Flynn seems much more at home in Western chaps than he has in evening clothes, and his performance is everything you could expect, rivalling his fine work in "Robin Hood" and "Captain Blood". He's too much of the outdoor type in real life to feel at home in a movie drawing-room. Olivia de Havilland has exactly the same type of role she has played in at least half a dozen other outdoor dramas, so she couldn't help but be perfect in the part. Ann Sheridan, the "Oomph Girl", gets considerable footage as the leading light of the Gay Lady Saloon, and Cabot's girl friend. Cabot and Jory make most convincing villains, while Alan Hale is in his element as Flynn's two-fisted assistant. Frank McHugh is good as editor of the town's newspaper, and the rest of the large supporting cast all do well.

Michael Curtiz' direction is, as usual, "tops".

Running time—106 minutes.

★ ★ ★

"FAST AND LOOSE"

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

THE Joel Sloanes continue to prove to all and sundry that the rare book business can be much more exciting than chasing killer sharks in the blue Pacific, providing you have the knack, as Joel has, of finding trouble continually knocking on your door. You will remember that in "Fast Company", the Sloanes (Melvyn Douglas and Florence Rice) emerged with just a few minor scratches, but their successors, Bob Montgomery and Rosalind Russell barely escape with their lives in this modern whodunit.

The picture can best be described under the classification, "comedy melodrama", which immediately places it in the "Thin Man" school of production, thrilling and exciting, and at the same time very funny, with particular witty dialogue.

Joel again turns detective at the request of the insurance companies, to investigate the theft of some rare books, and the forgery of an exceedingly valuable Shakespeare manuscript. Joel and Garda visit the country home of Nicholas Torrent, owner of the Shakespeare manuscript, and immediately find themselves involved in a web of treachery, love, hatred, burglary and MURDER. After some very close shaves both for himself and for his wife, Joel solves the case, and the murderer is captured.

Montgomery is perfectly at home as the fearless and sophisticated book dealer-detective. We sincerely hope, however, that this does not mean the end of Montgomery in serious roles such as "Night Must Fall" and "Yellow Jack". Admittedly he is good in the light comedy roles, but too good a dramatic actor. Rosalind Russell, more Myrna Loy-ish than ever, is the perfect foil for Bob's nimble wit. She puts across her lines with ease, some of them really priceless. Sidney Blackmer makes a very convincing blackguard, while Reginald Owens blusters his way through in his usual manner. Others in the cast include Ralph Morgan, Etienne Girardot, Alan Dinehart, Jo Ann Sayers, Joan Marsh, Anthony Allen, Tom Collins, and Mary Forbes.

Edwin L. Marin directed from an original screenplay by Harry Kurnitz.

This picture is good enough to single anywhere, but if you do play double-features, this with a Western or a simple love story, will make a program that will pay handsome dividends.

Running time—75 minutes.

"JAY L"

★ ★ +

"WIFE, HUSBAND AND FRIEND"

20th CENTURY - FOX

ALTHOUGH Gregory Ratoff does not appear in this picture, it will undoubtedly mark the end of his career as an actor, for he did direct it, and so well that it is doubtful if his boss, Darryl Zanuck, will ever permit him to appear before the cameras again. At present he has a three-way contract with Fox, calling for his services as an actor, director and writer, but it is very unlikely that he will be called upon to do any more acting. Ratoff's clever handling of the many difficult situations throughout this picture, and his excellent pacing of the entire film, are largely responsible for its genuine entertainment value.

Warner Baxter is the wealthy husband of Loretta Young, who thinks she can sing, but can't. Hating classical music, and hoping to teach her a lesson, Baxter agrees to finance one concert for his wife, but it doesn't turn out the way he had hoped. His wife continues her "career", but in the meantime he meets Binnie Barnes, prominent soprano, who takes more than a casual interest in him. She discovers that he is the possessor of a better than ordinary baritone voice, and persuades him to use it, and get revenge on his wife that way. The resultant complications are too complex to relate in this column, but needless to say, the final reel finds everything straightened out, with both Loretta and Warner sworn never to open their mouths in song again.

Although Baxter and Loretta Young are starred, and although both do all that is required of them, and very well too, it is Binnie Barnes who walks away with acting honors. If you remember what a brilliant hit Miss Barnes made in "Three Blind Mice", in that comedy siren role, you can imagine how she fares in this, with considerable more footage. In fact she is so good, that I understand Fox are planning a sequel to this, with Miss Barnes given top feminine listing. In addition to the aforementioned three, the cast boasts such good marquee lures as Cesar Romero, George Barbier, J. Edward Bromberg, Eugene Pallette and Helen Westley, and a large number of minor players.

This is the type of picture that showmen welcome with open arms, for it has appeal for all classes. Thanks to its polish, and lavish production, plus the setting of the story, it will appeal to the carriage trade equally as much as its occasional excursions into the land of slapstick and general clowning will appeal to the common gentry.

Running time—75 minutes.

★ ★ +

Member Nova Scotia Legislature Charges Famous Players "Monoply"

Halifax, N.S.—News of the week in Halifax is the Bill to license and regulate Film Exchanges, which was given its second reading in the Legislature of Nova Scotia. This Bill, sponsored by Malcolm Patterson of Sydney, member for Cape Breton West, would give the Board of Censors power to inquire into Film Distribution and the terms upon which films are sold. The Distributors would also be required to have agencies in Halifax with offices.

In the discussion, Famous Players Canadian Corporation, was charged with carrying on a system of discrimination against the smaller theatres, and thus creating a monopoly. "Famous Players in conjunction with the Nathanson distributing agency" had, according to a newspaper report, given a Sydney theatre operator the right "to select his pictures and to fix a time for the pictures to be shown". Mr. Patterson, according to the newspaper report, stated: "It seems to me that all the people of this Province who patronize the different theatres are compelled to contribute indirectly to Famous Players". Mr. Patterson characterized the practise as "a racket", and stated that the people of Nova Scotia "could shut it off".

Mr. J. J. Fitzgibbons in a dispatch from Toronto, characterized the charges as "ridiculous", saying that there is no foundation for saying that they are running their business in Nova Scotia in any way but according to regular business practise.

CHURCHES OUST SCHOOLS AS FILM OPPOSITION

Regina, Sask. — The combined opposition of parents, Saskatchewan Motion Picture Exhibitors' Association, and local churches, put an end to the showing of amusement pictures in Regina public schools in late March.

For two years it had been the practice in Regina schools to give weekly shows for the children at a price of five cents. Motion picture exhibitors naturally objected but it remained for a local church to put the school shows out of business by giving a double feature for five cents.

Being unable to compete with the churches on a commercial basis, the Regina School Board has decided to discontinue amusement films. Henceforth only educational films, paid for by the school board will be shown. Five hundred dollars has already been allotted for the purpose.

Parental objection came when children were shown that gruesome old thriller, "The Cat And Canary Murder Case."

Royalty Attends Opening

Paris, France—As a climax to the winter season on the Riviera, the Cinema Des Beaux Arts in Monte Carlo will present a single performance of the forthcoming Alexander Korda Technicolor production "Four Feathers." The showing will take place on Saturday, April 8, and will be given for the benefit of the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital of Nice.

Attending the performance, which is in the nature of a world premiere for "Four Feathers," will be Prince Monaco and the Hereditary Princess, the King of Sweden, and the Duke and Duchess of Windsor.

"Four Feathers," based on the famous novel by A. E. W. Mason, is a United Artists release.

"REFLECT" CREDIT?

"Business of Eastern Theatres, Ltd., which operates the Imperial Theatre in Toronto, showed a improvement in the first quarter of 1939, compared with similar quarter last year, Thomas J. Bragg, president, told shareholders at the annual meeting. In so doing, operations of company were going against the general trend of theatre business, Mr. Bragg stated. Reports were adopted and directors REFLECTED."

Toronto Daily Star,
March 29th.

N.B. The caps are ours.

THEATRE CASHIER WEDS

Isobel Simington, until recently relief cashier at the Metropolitan, Regina, will become Mrs. Don Forester on April 6.

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10 INDIVIDUAL TAXES MILK THEATRE RESERVES

PROBABLY in no city in Canada does the independent moving picture theatre flourish with such public favor as in Winnipeg. In proportion to population there are more modern independent theatres in Winnipeg than in any other centre in the Dominion, judged by a recent municipal survey; and all managements spoke of splendid patronage but claimed to the authorities that these houses are not putting aside the reserves in cash they should be, owing to the many taxes that this industry has to pay There are ten individual taxes contributed by the theatres of Winnipeg to federal, provincial and city treasuries, starting with the tax on films at the exchanges and going through a long series at the theatre itself. Of course, these in many instances cannot be passed along to the public as there are only certain scales of prices which the patrons of theatres can afford to pay; so that admissions to the theatres of Winnipeg are the lowest of any city. Where 75 and 50 cents are secured by exhibitors in many large centres, only 50 and 35 cents are the highest in the Winnipeg scale. However the independent theatres, keeping close tab on the public, are able to get close to the popular fancy in programmes and in attractive surroundings, and thereby reap the benefit from a discerning public. The Rio, the former Province, under Helmer Jernberg's management, won a large patronage last week with the showing of Gracie Field's latest vehicle, "Smiling Along". While this remarkable entertainer is not the success in pictures in the United States that was expected, in Winnipeg where there are so many Old Country former residents, she has a big following, and crowds flocked to the Rio to enjoy the presentation. The Garrick with "Trade Winds" also enjoyed a capacity business. There are a few independent theatres in Winnipeg which have found liberal patronage when showing pictures made in foreign countries, especially those from Russia and the Balkans; in few cities on the continent would this patronage be equalled, this being due to the fact that Winnipeg has a large central European population. With the coming of Spring a number of the independent theatres will go in for a thorough renovation and freshening, in preparation for the late season's business.

SPRING IS HERE!

Regina, Sask. — Film salesmen from the Winnipeg Film Exchange report that the re-opening of the winter-blocked highways has already put many of Saskatchewan's numerous small town exhibitors back to work.

A New Order May Prevail Between Film Traders

EVERY move to bring the trade practices between exhibitors and producer-distributors down to that kind of trading basis which prevails in other major industries, between producers and distributors of a manufactured product, is a move in the right direction. It is one of those much needed reforms of which one can say with all sincerity, "If eventually, why not now?"

The Government of the United States has stated in no uncertain terms that the Industry MUST REGULATE ITSELF, or else — That "or else" needs no explanatory notes. We have sufficient examples before us in present day history of the Film Industry in several countries under GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

As much as we deplore and abhor such a control of an Industry which gets its life-blood from the artistic or showmanship angle of its production, if we are not capable of regulating ourselves, what can we expect? Government control has not made the Film Industry, nor popularized its product. It is the antithesis of Showmanship; and Showmanship which is THEATRE, meaning by that term "Theatre" that it is essentially composed of the same elements as those which have for hundreds and hundreds of years been associated with the Stage, cannot be regulated in the same degree as those major industries which deal with Raw Products or Utilities solely.

However, Governments are made up generally of representatives who have the Business of a nation to deal with; and who have no time, nor inclination to vision Artistic Flights of Imagination. That which a Government controls must pattern itself after the make-up of the Governments which are in control; and when they do become Patrons of the Arts, or of what might be termed Beautiful Utilities, it is because some Dreamer of Educational or Propaganda Values has been sufficiently eloquent to sell his idea, having already sold himself to a constituency to win the support of his fellow-legislators.

The highlights of the new code of trade practices as formulated by representatives of the Film Industry are as follows:—

Arbitration — is not left for the interpretation of exhibitors or distributors, it is set out in several clauses as to its scope of operation. In dealing with the performance of a license agreement its first purpose is to find out whether there has been a breach of performance and who has committed the breach. Its second power is to direct specific performance of the provision which has been breached; and to award damages covering each feature involved, the damages not to exceed the liquidated damages as provided for in the license agreement.

On the matter of "Clearance". The clause accepts this form of trade practice, for it states; The parties hereto recognize that "clearance" reasonable as to time and area, is essential in the distribution and exhibition of motion pictures; that an exhibitor has the right without restriction to license for any theatre any run for which he is able to negotiate with any distributor; and that subject to Article VI hereof, a distributor has the right without restriction to license for any theatre any run for which it is able to negotiate with any exhibitor.

Any dispute as to whether or not the existing "clearance", under the conditions involved in the particular instance is unreasonable, shall be subject to arbitration.

The powers of arbitrators in any dispute relating to "clearance" shall be limited to, (a) finding as to whether or not the theatre or theatres whose "clearance" is complained of, or any of them, is entitled to "clearance"; and if so, then, (b) an award of the reasonable maximum "clearance" to which such theatre or theatres is entitled.

There is an important clause governing "regular customer" which is referred to in the "clearance clause" under article VI.

To meet objections of certain exhibitors to so-called "selling away to a circuit", a distributor will not refuse to license its features to its "regular customer" who is not a "circuit customer" in order to license them, for the same run, in the same competitive area, to another exhibitor for the sole reason that such is a circuit customer, provided that the REGULAR CUSTOMER (a) has substantially performed his private license agreements with the distributor, (b) maintains and operates his theatre in a modern manner, and (c) is finacially responsible. Any dispute as to whether an exhibitor has so refused to license its features to a REGULAR CUSTOMER shall be subject to arbitration. Should distributor elect to license its features to an exhibitor (other than its then current customer) who is a circuit customer, distributor shall, if its then "current customer" is not a circuit customer, GIVE HIM NOTICE BY TELEGRAPH OF ITS ELECTION TO DO SO. Should such current customer fail to commence arbitration proceedings within five days after the sending of such notice, he shall be deemed to have waived all claims, if any, in connection with such features under this Article VI.

There is a clause governing cancellation privilege to range from ten to twenty percent depending on rental price.

There is to be NO PREFERRED playing time on flat rentals or guarantee against percentage.

No "shorts" forcing; and starting with season of 1939-40 no "Score Charges". The new trade pact to become operative for at least two seasons and to cover agreements made after Jan. 1, 1939, for the 1939-40 product. The Trade Pact is still in a state of being perfected. The Digest will deal with its several clauses in detail in our next issue of The Digest. Meanwhile we note, that 20th Century-Fox and Metro - Goldwyn - Mayer have both made statements in reference to Trade Practices within and without the Code as formulated; and that their policy is to INCLUDE CANADA.

—Editor.

Instal New Equipment

Winnipeg, Man. — Harold Bishop, manager of the Capitol Theatre here, announced this week that new RCA High Fidelity sound equipment would be installed in the Capitol in the immediate future.

Maritime Travellers

Saint John, N.B.—A. J. Mason of the New Capitol Theatre, Springhill, N.S., and Frank Soby of the Jubilee Theatre, Stellarton, N.S., were in Saint John for several days this week. Mr. Mason left for Halifax.

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EVERYTHING FOR THE THEATRE FROM SHEET TO STREET

Shooting The Stars » » At The Studio

Henry Hull will play the principal role in a new **Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer** picture entitled **"Miracles for Sale"**; story is a murder mystery laid behind the scenes with a group of magicians and oculists; **Tod Browning** will direct . . . . **James Stewart** has been borrowed by **Columbia** from **M-G-M** for the title role in **Frank Capra's** production of **"Mr. Smith Goes To Washington"**; **Jean Arthur** will play the feminine lead . . . . **Cesar Romero, Joseph Schildkraut, Henry Travers** and **Maria Ouspenskaya** are additions to the cast of **20th Century-Fox's** production of the **Louis Bromfield** novel, **"The Rains Came"**, starring **Myrna Loy, George Brent** and **Tyrone Power; Clarence Brown** will direct . . . **Donald Crisp** has been added by **Samuel Goldwyn** to the cast of his forthcoming production, **"The Real Glory"**, starring **Gary Cooper** with **Andrea Leeds, David Niven** and **Walter Brennan;** "The Real Glory" is under the direction of **Henry Hathaway** and will be released by **United Artists** . . . **Cary Grant,** one of Hollywood's most sought-after leading men, will co-star with **Carole Lombard** and **Kay Francis** in **"Memory of Love"**, which **George Haight** will produce for **RKO Radio; John Cromwell** will be behind the megaphone . . . **Ann Sheridan** will co-star with **John Garfield** in the modern version of **"20,000 Years in Sing Sing"**, it is announced by **Warner Bros.**; Miss Sheridan has four other major productions on her schedule including **"Career Man"**, co-starring with **Jeffrey Lynn, "Three Cheers for the Irish"**, starring with **Fred MacMurray** and **Pat O'Brien, "And It All Came True"**, to be co-starred with **James Stewart** . . . **Walter Pidgeon** heads a large and imposing cast in **Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's** new prison story, **"6000 Enemies"; Rita Johnson** has the feminine lead . . . **Lucille Ball, Kent Taylor** and **Patric Knowles** have been added to the cast of **RKO Radio's** dramatic feature, **"Five Came Back"**; others in the important cast include **Chester Morris, Wendy Barrie, John Carradine, Allen Jenkins, Joseph Calleia, C. Aubrey Smith** and **Elizabeth Risdon** . . . **Alfred Hitchcock,** noted English director, arrived in Hollywood this week to start work on his first American directorial venture; he will direct **"Rebecca"** for the **Selznick-U.A.** forces . . . **Quentin Reynolds,** well-known novelist and feature writer for Collier's Magazine, will write the script of **"The Bishop Who Walked With God"** for **Warner Bros.** . . . **Lyle Talbot** was this week made an addition to the cast supporting **Sonja Henie, Tyrone Power** and **Rudy Vallee** in **20th Century-Fox's Irving Berlin** production, re-titled **"Second Fiddle"** . . . **Adolphe Menjou** was this week engaged by **Columbia** to play the role of Tom Moody, the fight manager, in the screen version of **Clifford Odets'** successful stage play, **"Golden Boy"; Barbara Stanwyck** has already been assigned the feminine lead.

Ann Sheridan, Warner Bros. star, whom a group of Hollywood notables, all men, selected as America's No. 1 "Oomph Girl".

Trans - Canada Showings

TORONTO

EGLINTON
3rd week, "A Man To Remember" (RKO Radio), starring Edward Ellis, and "Beauty for the Asking" (RKO Radio), starring Lucille Ball.

IMPERIAL
"Oklahoma Kid" (Warners), starring James Cagney, and "Sudden Money" (Paramount), with Charlie Ruggles.

LOEW'S
"Fast and Loose" (M-G-M), starring Robert Montgomery and Rosalind Russell, and "Four Girls in White" (M-G-M), with Florence Rice.

SHEA'S
"Wings of the Navy" (Warners), starring George Brent, Olivia de Havilland and John Payne. Also stage show.

UPTOWN
"Wife, Husband and Friend" (20th Century-Fox), starring Warner Baxter and Loretta Young.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL
"Fast and Loose" (M-G-M), starring Robert Montgomery and Rosalind Russell, and "Everybody's Baby" (20th Century-Fox), starring the Jones Family.

LOEW'S
3rd week. "Pygmalion" (M-G-M), starring Leslie Howard and Wendy Hiller.

ORPHEUM
2nd week. "The Lost Patrol" (RKO re-issue), starring Victor McLaglen, and "Star of Midnight" (RKO re-issue), starring William Powell and Ginger Rogers.

PALACE
"Wife, Husband and Friend" (20th Century-Fox), starring Warner Baxter and Loretta Young.

PRINCESS
"Hotel Imperial" (Paramount), starring Ray Milland and Isa Miranda, and Sudden Money" (Paramount), with Charlie Ruggles.

SAINT JOHN

CAPITOL
"They Made Me A Criminal" (Warners), starring John Garfield.

EMPIRE
"Wells Fargo" (Paramount), starring Joel McCrea and Bob Burns, and "Partners in Crime" (Paramount), with Roscoe Karns.

MAYFAIR
"The Great Waltz" (M-G-M), starring Luise Rainer, Fernand Gravet and Miliza Korjus, and "The Saint Strikes Back" (RKO Radio), starring George Sanders and Wendy Barrie.

REGENT
"Artists and Models Abroad" (Paramount), starring Jack Benny and Joan Bennett, and "Charlie Chan in Honolulu" (20th Century-Fox), with Sidney Toler.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL
"Pygmalion" (M-G-M), starring Leslie Howard and Wendy Hiller.

GAIETY
"The Sisters" (Warners), starring Bette Davis and Errol Flynn, and "St. Louis Blues" (Paramount), starring Dorothy Lamour and Lloyd Nolan.

GARRICK
"The Duke of West Point" (Edward Small-U.A.), starring Louis Hayward, and Tom Brown.

LYCEUM
"Return of the Scarlet Pimpernel" (London Films), starring Barry Barnes, and "Up the River" (20th Century-Fox), with Preston Foster.

RIO
"The Last Mile" (World Wide re-issue) starring Preston Foster.

CALGARY

CAPITOL
"The Little Princess" (20th Century-Fox), starring Shirley Temple.

ISIS
"Zaza" (Paramount), starring Claudette Colbert and Herbert Marshall, and "Tropic Holiday" (Paramount), starring Dorothy Lamour, Ray Milland, Bob Burns and Martha Raye.

PALACE
"Cafe Society" (Paramount), starring Madeleine Carroll and Fred MacMurray.

STRAND
"Romance of the Limberlost" (G-N), starring Jean Parker and Eric Linden, and "Brother Rat" (Warners), starring Priscilla Lane and Wayne Morris.

VARIETY
"Breaking the Ice" (RKO Radio), starring Bobby Breen, and "Where the Buffalo Roam" (Monogram), starring Tex Ritter.

VANCOUVER

DUNBAR
"Merrily We Live" (M-G-M), starring Constance Bennett and Brian Aherne, and "The Road Back" (Universal), with Richard Cromwell.

BAY
"Lord Jeff" (M-G-M), starring Freddie Bartholomew and Mickey Rooney, and "Fast Company" (M-G-M), starring Melvyn Douglas and Florence Rice.

DOMINION
"Kentucky" (20th Century-Fox), starring Loretta Young and Richard Greene, and "Secret Service of the Air" (Warners), with Ronald Reagan.

PLAZA
2nd week. "Made For Each Other" (Selznick-U.A.), starring Carole Lombard and James Stewart.